

Message Text

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43

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3607

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0488

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TAGS AORG ILO

SUBJ ELECTION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. CONVERSATIONS DURING LAST FEW DAYS OF ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE AMONG DELEGATES, GB REPS, AND OFFICERS FROM VARIOUS GENEVA MISSIONS REVEALED FIRM AND GROWING CONVICTION THAT BLANCHARD WILL WIN ELECTION.

2. TEVOEDJRE CLAIMS 22 VOTES AT THIS JUNCTURE, BASED ON 4 AF, 4 LA, 2 ARABS, INDIA, 6 EMPLOYERS (ABATE, DIALLO-DRAMEY, MONTT BALMACEDA, NASR, TATA, VITAIC-JAKASA) AND 5 WORKERS (FOGAM, MAHKLOUF, MEHTA, ROBEL, AND SANCHEZ MADARIAGA). TEVOEDJRE PRESUMABLY CAN COUNT ON 4 AF'S ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME OBSERVERS WHO BELIEVE THAT GHANA IS NOT A CERTAINTY. HE HAS COMMITMENTS FROM JAMAICA, MEXICO, PANAMA AND BELIEVES THAT HE WILL GET ARGENTINA. HIS WORKER AND EMPLOYER CLAIMS ARE BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT THESE GROUPS WILL SPLIT WIDE.

3. BLANCHARD DOESN'T QUOTE TOTAL FIGURES, BUT BELIEVES THAT HE WILL HAVE OVERSHELMING SUPPORT IN EMPLOYER AND WORKER GROUPS AND IS COUNTING AT THIS JUNCTURE ON 4 WE'S AND 3 ASIANS (AUSTRALIA, IRAN, JAPAN). WORKER GROUP VICE CHAIRMAN MORRIS TOLD LABATT THAT HIS GROUP WITH ONE EXCEPTION WAS UNANIMOUS FOR BLANCHARD. HE DIDN'T DIVULGE THE HOLDOUT, BUT HINTED IT WAS PIMENOV. BLANCHARD CLAIMS ASSURANCES FROM EMPLOYERS

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BERGETSTROM, ERDMANN, HENNIKER-HEATON, WALINE AND A NEAR

PROMISE FROM NASR.

4. AROUND GENEVA THE CALCULATION OF MAXIMUM POSSIBLE COUNT FOR TEVOEDJRE IS 15-17. THIS FIGURE BASED ON 4 LA'S WITH ARGENTINA DOUBTFUL, 4 AF'S WITH GHANA DOUBTFUL, 2 ARABS, INDIA, 3 EMPLOYERS (ABATE, DIALLO-DRAMEY, NASR) AND 3 WORKERS (FOGAM, MAHKLOUF, ROBEL). JOE MORRIS CLAIMS THAT FOGAM WILL NOT SUPPORT TEVOEDJRE.

5. NOT PRESENT IN PRELIMINARY CALCULATIONS IS PREDICTION OF GOVT VOTES FROM US, CANADA AND 4 SOVIET BLOC VOTES (USSR, BULGARIA, POLAND AND PIMENOV). SOME OBSERVERS HAVE HEARD THAT SOVIETS WILL SUPPORT BLANCHARD, OTHERS THAT THEY WILL SUPPORT TEVOEDJRE. GB CHAIRMAN MUNOZ-LEDO INFORMED LABATT THAT SOVIET MISSION COUNSELOR BOUKREEV TOLD HIM THAT SOVIETS FAVORED LIMITING TERM OF DG TO THREE YEARS AS MOVE TO MOLLIFY LDC'S. FROM SOVIET STANDPOINT THIS PLOY MAKES SENSE IF THEY THINK TEVOEDJRE IS NOT GOING TO WIN.

6. MISSION BELIEVES THAT TEVOEDJRE HAS PEAKED SHORT OF THE NECESSARY VOTES TO WIN. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A GROWING MOVEMENT TOWARD BLANCHARD THAT WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT IN DAYS AHEAD AND INSURE HIS VICTORY. PART OF THIS IS DUE TO BLANCHARD'S EFFECTIVE HANDLING OF THE AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE. PART IS DUE TO THE CALM AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER IN WHICH HE HAS CARRIED OUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES SINCE NOVEMBER. AND PART IS DUE TO A GROWING NEGATIVE REACTION TO TEVOEDJRE'S AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGNING. BASSIN

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